

homes and all living creatures from an alpine plain of greater altitude, down to the shores of Lake Brienz. Next morning the residents, eager to rescue any survivors, found only the body of a cold and almost lifeless baby boy, still protected and enclosed in a woven basket. Identification was impossible so they surnamed him Ab-plan-alp, which means "off an alpine plain."

Many years later, Mormon missionaries converted one of the Abplanalp descendants, Peter Abplanalp, Sr., and his wife. When their son, Peter, Jr., was five months old, they left for America in November, 1857.

The family lived in Pikes Pond, New York, for about five years. Two baby girls were born there. They then came directly to Utah, and entered Heber Valley by means of oxen.

The road, to what was then called Mound City, cut off just south of a jutting crag near Hailstone, upon which Ben A. Norris year after year painted the Stars and Stripes. The old road didn't cross the river but ambled over the ridges to the west into Dutch Canyon and hence to the settlements that later became Midway. In this pioneer community Peter, Jr. grew to manhood along with nine other brothers and sisters. He acquired a workable knowledge of both the English and German language.

At age nine, Ute Indians, during the Black Hawk War, came over the mountains east of Heber City to pilfer and raid the herds of the settlers. He and other young fellows of Midway drove the cattle to grazing grounds south west of town and, returned them to the stockade at eventide. Later on they were declared Black Hawk War veterans, and ultimately when a beneficent State Legislature appropriated money for pensions, he refused to accept one.

He played a horn in the first Brass Band organized in the valley. His appreciation of good music and a keen sense of timing and harmony enabled him to detect and help correct errors that his children persistently made in learning to play various instruments. It seemed there was always music in the home.

In his early twenties his entire family moved to Vernal. He had given his father two hundred dollars and a yoke of oxen. There wasn't much ceremony at the parting: a handshake, a mother's kiss—then that awkward silence when a man chokes up a bit. He stood there with a few friends and watched them goad the oxen, watched

### PETER ABPLANALP JR. AND MARY JANE ALDER ABPLANALP



Peter Abplanalp, born May 31, 1857, Brienzwyler, Switzerland, the son of Margarita Egger and Peter Abplanalp, Sr.

Married Mary Jane Alder in 1881.

Died January 7, 1934, Midway.

Mary Jane Alder Abplanalp, born July 10, 1859 in Salt Lake City, to Mary Jane Wilson and Elijah Alder. Married Peter Abplanalp 1881. Died September 15, 1943, Midway.

According to an old legend that has been kept alive for three or four hundred years in and around the beautiful little village of Brienzwyler, Switzerland—birth place of Peter Abplanalp—an avalanche swept the

little hands wave while the two covered wagons rolled slowly away. He didn't see them often after that.

When he was twenty-four he married Mary Jane Alder in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. Transportation was faster now—the horse had practically replaced the ox. On Temple Square men were working high in the air on scaffolding, while on the ground oxen dragged heavy blocks of granite. They were to return in eleven years (1892) to witness the completion and dedication of the Great Mormon Temple.

The first few summers of his married life were spent cutting cord wood in the White Pines north of home. He couldn't split a hair with the blade of an ax, but he could accurately trim off the business end of a secured match eight times out of ten.

For a number of years he supported his family by means of farming and mining. He did assessment work for various mining interests and did it the hard way. Two men worked together, sharpened and tempered their own steel then drilled holes for the dynamite. One hand held the drill while the other pounded it into the rock with a four-pound sledge hammer called a "single jack."

He raised his own horses and experienced much satisfaction breaking in and driving a good "pulling team." Many colts were sold for attractive prices.

He served as a member of the Town Board during the Prohibition era.

Religion to him was a sacred thing. He was a Christian in the true sense, and maintained a steadfast reverence for the authorities of the church. He read a little each day, mainly the scriptures and Church publications. He kept his eldest son William in the Swiss and German mission field thirty-three months.

The adoration and respect he engendered in his family was attested by the loving manner in which his daughters cared for him during the long illness before he died. When death came in 1934, the high council, of which he was a member, formed a military unit at his home and solemnly marched before his bier to the ward chapel for the funeral services.

Mary Jane Alder Abplanalp lived as a young girl in Salt Lake City and then came with her family to Midway. They lived in a log cabin with a dirt roof. Her father

was a mason by trade, and built a brick home for his family, which is still standing today in very good condition.

On September 6th, 1880, Eliza R. Snow came to Midway to organize the Primary. They held the meeting in a small brick building and Sister Snow chose Mary Jane Alder as the first president of this organization. She chose as her counselors Rachel Holfeltz and Cynthia Wootton.

She was always a faithful Latter-day Saint worker. In the Relief Society she has served in many capacities—class leader, visiting teacher for several years, and as a Relief Society Missionary.

She also served as a counselor in the MIA. She taught a class in Sunday School and held an office in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers of the Hawthorne Camp.

She was particularly skilled in crocheting, and her many exquisite and intricate designs revealed a keen sense of artistry and color harmony. Many of her friends and relatives were made happy with exquisite gifts that they received from her.

She was also noted for the numerous quilts she made creating many designs of great beauty.

Much of her time was devoted to taking care of the sick, visiting and assisting the needy and the bereaved. She was very devoted to her family, always kind and generous and loved by all who knew her. Mary Jane and Peter Abplanalp always kept their door open to their family and friends. Their greetings of welcome were always warm and sincere, and their hospitality was the finest.

Children of Peter Abplanalp and Mary Jane Alder:

William, married Ida Huber  
Mrs. David (Mary Jane) Wootton  
Mrs. Thomas J. (Myrtle Margaret) Snarr  
Mrs. Guy E. (Teresa Ellis) Coleman  
Mrs. Glen (Lacy Elizabeth) Jensen. Later Laurence Greenwood, later Richard Lundquist

Doctor L. Reed, married Lorna Forbush  
Mrs. Diamond (Ethel Vilate) Adams.

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ALVAH JEDATHAN  
ALEXANDER AND ELIZABETH  
SOULE ALEXANDER



Acting Bishop of Midway Ward, 1902-1903.

John Alexander came from Sterling, Scotland, in 1640 and settled in Windsor, Connecticut. He had three sons with him, George, John and Thomas.

John Jedathan was a descendant of George who married Susan Sage at Windsor, March 18, 1644. In 1655 they, with others, settled North Hampton, Massachusetts which they purchased from the Indians.

John, son of George and Susan, married Sarah Gaylord November 18, 1671.

Ebenezer, son of John and Sarah, married Mehitable Buch, October 10, 1709. They lived in Northfield, Vermont, where he was a deacon in his church for forty years.

Thomas, son of Ebenezer and Mehitable married Phoebe (maiden name not known) December 11, 1754.

Jabez, son of Thomas and Phoebe, married Louisa Poole, February 13, 1777.

Alvah, son of Jabez and Louisa, married Phoebe Houston, May 9, 1822, at Acurth, New Hampshire.

Alvah Jedathan, son of Alvah and Phoebe, was born September 21, 1831, at Northfield, Vermont. The family joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. They were close neighbors to the Prophet Joseph Smith. The children of both families played together.

Alvah was 13 years old when the Prophet was martyred. He went with his father to meet the body of Joseph Smith when it was taken from Carthage.

Alvah came to Utah with his parents in October, 1852, in the Captain Harmon Cutler company.

Elizabeth "Betsy Kincade" Soule Alexander was born February 6, 1834 at Dexter, Maine, daughter of Solomon and Lydia Bessee Soule.

In 1853 her family left for the gold rush in California.

In the fall of 1853 with an independent company of emigrants they arrived in Utah too late to continue their journey. They settled down to spend the winter in East Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, Utah.

Miss Soule found a job with a Mr. Roberts as a glove maker. While in his employment she heard of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was convinced in her heart that it was true.

During the winter she met Alvah Jedathan Alexander and on March 13, 1854, she became his bride.

Her family left Utah for California in the spring which was a great heart ache for her. She never had the privilege of seeing any of them again except one brother. She was a splendid nurse and went day and night wherever she was needed.

In the year 1870, her family moved to Midway, where she became very active in the organizations of the church.

She has the distinction of being a descendant of George Soule who came to America in the famous "Mayflower" and planted his feet on the Plymouth Rock in 1620.

She died December 17, 1924, at the age of 90.

She and her husband were the parents of 11 children:

Mary Elizabeth Alexander, married James O'Neil

Phoebe Alexander, married George Bonner

Alvah Alexander, married Dezzie Bonner

Adelbert Alexander, married Utiola Epperson

Ella Gertrude Alexander, married Robert Bell Ross

Frederic Soule Alexander, died when child

Ada DeAna Alexander, married Thomas Edmundston Bonner

Charles Edwin Alexander, married Lalla Ruth Springer



## HENRY MILES AND SARAH JANE ROSS ALEXANDER



Henry Miles Alexander was the first child of Henry Samuel Alexander and Sarah Miles. He was born at South Mill Creek, Salt Lake City, Utah, September 20, 1852.

In his early manhood he met his wife, Sarah Jane Ross from Provo. She was the daughter of James Ross and Susan Robey and was born January 7, 1858. They were married July 22, 1872, in the Endowment House.

This young couple's first home was in Midway, where they established a store business. Three of their children were born there.

Desiring to better themselves they moved to Heber, where the father took up the trade of a carpenter and painter. He built their home on main street where the Wasatch County Library now stands. Four more of their children were born here. He was a very studious and energetic man and always provided well for his family.

He was noted as an outstanding carpenter and builder and because of the quality of his work he was asked to go to Vernal to oversee carpenter work. He moved there with his family, and this happy union was blessed with five more children.

The good mother, besides caring for her eleven children, found time to care for the sick and was recognized as community seamstress. At the early age of thirty-eight she passed away at the birth of her twelfth child on April 1, 1896.

Sorrowful and heartbroken, the father left the care of the infant with his wife's

sister and moved with the eleven children back to Heber. He was a wonderful father, trying to maintain a home by cooking, sewing and keeping house for his family. This he accomplished after his days work. Six years later he passed away while visiting in Vernal on February 26, 1902.

Children of Henry Miles Alexander and Sarah Jane Ross:

Sarah Miles Alexander, married Ed Curtis

Minnie Maud Alexander, married Elbert J. Lyon

Henry Samuel Alexander, married May Wallace

Susan Lavernia Alexander, married Joseph S. Cummings

Mary Jane Alexander, married George Shelton

Florence Ione Alexander, married Jeremiah Hatch

Charles Sterling Alexander, married Beatrice Cunningham

James Jackson Alexander, married Mable Burns

Lelia May Alexander, married Sidney Epperson

J. Monroe Alexander, married Louise Ferrisa Cabral

George Albert Alexander, died in infancy

William Ray Alexander, married Sophie.

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*She: Practical  
Nurse*